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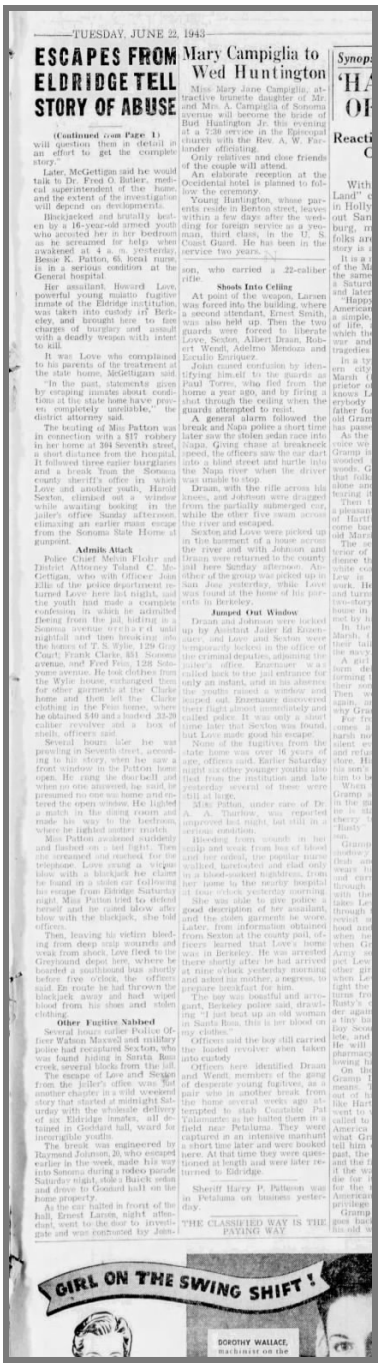

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1943

ESCAPES FROM ELDRIDGE TELL STORY OF ABUSE

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will question them in detail in an effort to get the complete story.

Later, McGettigan said he would talk to Dr. Fred O. Butler, medical superintendent of the home, and the extent of the investigation will depend on developments.

Blackjacked and brutally beaten by a 16-year-old armed youth who accosted her in her bedroom as he screamed for help, when awakened at 4 a. m. yesterday, Bessie K. Patton, 65, local nurse, is in a serious condition at the General hospital.

Her assailant, Howard Love, powerful young mulatto fugitive inmate of the Eldridge institution, was taken into custody in Berkeley, and brought here to face charges of burglary and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

It was Love who complained to his parents of the treatment at the state home, McGettigan said.

"In the past, statements given by escaping inmates about conditions at the state home have proven completely unreliable," the district attorney said.

The beating of Miss Patton was in connection with a $17 robbery in her home at 304 Seventh street, a short distance from the hospital. It followed three earlier burglaries and a break from the Sonoma county sheriff's office in which Love and another youth, Harold Sexton, climbed out a window while awaiting booking in the jailer's office Sunday afternoon, climaxing an earlier mass escape from the Sonoma State Home at gunpoint.

Admits Attack

Police Chief Melvin Flohr and District Attorney Toland C. McGettigan, who with Officer John Ellis of the police department returned Love here last night, said the youth had made a complete confession in which he admitted fleeing from the jail, hiding in a Sonoma avenue orchard until nightfall and then breaking into the homes of T. S. Wylie, 129 Gay Court; Frank Clarke, 851 Sonoma avenue, and Fred Frio, 128 Sonoyomi avenue. He took clothes from the Wylie house, exchanged them for other garments at the Clarke home and then left the Clarke clothing in the Frio home, where he obtained $40 and a loaded .32-20 caliber revolver and a box of shells, officers said.

Several hours later he was prowling in Seventh street, according to his story, when he saw a front window in the Patton home open. He rang the doorbell and when no one answered, he said, he presumed no one was home and entered the open window. He lighted a match in the dining room and made his way to the bedroom, where he lighted another match.

Miss Patton awakened suddenly and flashed on a red light. Then she screamed and reached for the telephone. Love swung a vicious blow with a blackjack he claims he found in a stolen car following his escape from Eldridge Saturday night. Miss Patton tried to defend herself and he raised blow after blow with the blackjack, she told officers.

Then, leaving his victim bleeding from deep scalp wounds and weak from shock, Love fled to the Greyhound depot here, where he boarded a southbound bus shortly before five o'clock, the officers said. En route he had thrown the blackjack away and had wiped blood from his shoes and stolen clothing.

Other Fugitive Nabbed

Several hours earlier Police Officer Watson Maxwell and military police had recaptured Sexton, who was found hiding in Santa Rosa creek, several blocks from the jail.

The escape of Love and Sexton from the jailer's office was the another chapter in a wild weekend story that started at midnight Saturday with the wholesale delivery of six Eldridge inmates, all detained in Goddard hall, ward for incorrigible youths.

The break was engineered by Raymond Johnson, 20, who escaped earlier in the week, made his way into Sonoma during a rodeo parade Saturday night, stole a Buick sedan and drove to Goddard hall on the home property.

As the car halted in front of the hall, Ernest Larose, night attendant, went to the door to investigate and was confronted by Johnson, who carried a .22-caliber rifle.

Shoots Into Ceiling

At point of the weapon, Larsen was forced into the building, where a second attendant, Ernest Smith, was also held up. Then the two guards were forced to liberate Love, Sexton, Albert Drain, Robert Wendt, Adelmo Mendoza and Estulio Enriquez.

Joan caused confusion by identifying himself to the guards as Paul Torres, who fled from the home a year ago, and by firing a shot through the ceiling when the guards attempted to resist.

A general alarm followed the break and Napa police a short time later saw the stolen sedan race into Napa. Giving chase at breakneck speed, the officers saw the car dart into a blind street and hurtle into the Napa river when the driver was unable to stop.

Drain, with the rifle across his knees, and Johnson were dragged from the partially submerged car, while the other five swam across the river and escaped.

Sexton and Love were picked up in the basement of a house across the river and with Johnson and Drain were returned to the county jail here Sunday afternoon. Another of the group was picked up in San Jose yesterday, while Love was found at the home of his parents in Berkeley.

Jumped Out Window

Drain and Johnson were locked up by Assistant Jailer Ed Enzenauer, and Love and Sexton were temporarily locked in the office of the criminal deputies, adjoining the jailer's office. Enzenauer was called back to the jail entrance for only an instant, and in his absence the youths raised a window and leaped out. Enzenauer discovered their flight almost immediately and called police. It was only a short time later that Sexton was found, but Love made good his escape.

None of the fugitives from the state home was over 16 years of age, officers said. Earlier Saturday night six other younger youths also fled from the institution and late yesterday several of these were still at large.

Miss Patton, under care of Dr. A. A. Thurlow, was reported improved last night, but still in a serious condition.

Bleeding from wounds in her scalp and weak from loss of blood and her ordeal, the popular nurse walked, barefooted and clad only in a blood-soaked nightdress, from her home to the nearby hospital at four o'clock yesterday morning.

She was able to give police a good description of her assailant, and the stolen garments he wore. Later, from information obtained from Sexton at the county jail, officers learned that Love's home was in Berkeley. He was arrested there shortly after he had arrived at nine o'clock yesterday morning and asked his mother, a negress, to prepare breakfast for him.

The boy was beautiful and arrogant, Berkeley police said, drawling "I just beat up an old woman in Santa Rosa, this is her blood on my clothes."

Officers said the boy still carried the loaded revolver when taken into custody.

Officers here identified Drain and Wendt, members of the gang of desperate young fugitives, as a pair who in another break from the home several weeks ago attempted to stab Constable Pat Talamantes as he halted them in a field near Petaluma. They were captured in an intensive manhunt a short time later and were booked here. At that time they were questioned at length and were later returned to Eldridge.

Sheriff Harry P. Patteson was in Petaluma on business yesterday.

THE CLASSIFIED WAY IS THE PAYING WAY

Mary Campiglia to Wed Huntington

Miss Mary Jane Campiglia, attractive brunette daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Campiglia of Sonoma avenue will become the bride of Bud Huntington Jr. this evening at a 7:30 service in the Episcopal church with the Rev. A. W. Farlander officiating.

Only relatives and close friends of the couple will attend.

An elaborate reception at the Occidental hotel is planned to follow the ceremony.

Young Huntington, whose parents reside in Benton street, leaves within a few days after the wedding for foreign service as a yeoman, third class, in the U. S. Coast Guard. He has been in the service two years.

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